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February 22, 2011

Rep. Kenneth B. Horn, Chair  
Energy and Technology Committee

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NUMBERS 4265 AND 4266

Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

As Utilities Director for the City of Midland I would like to offer support of House Bills 4265 and 4266. The City of Midland operates a licensed solid waste facility (landfill) and a composting facility serving Midland County's 80,000+ residents. Midland County is a closed county, which does not allow the import or export of solid waste to or from other counties. In addition to operating the landfill and composting site, the city also operates city residential collection services, household hazardous waste and e-waste collections, and supports a recycling facility at the landfill to complement the curbside recycling program.

In 2007, we modified our landfill expansion to accommodate active gas collection, recirculation of leachate, and the potential inclusion of yard waste and/or sewage sludge. The design modification was to accommodate production of methane, to fuel our then proposed energy generation facility. The now completed energy generating facility is designed to produce 3.2 mega watts of electricity. The energy project's core benefit is to reduce energy costs at the city's wastewater and water treatment plants by 35% or \$325,000.00 annually.

By properly incorporating yard waste into our solid waste operation, we can reduce our collection costs and increase the volume of methane gas available for our energy facility. Presently, our landfill utilizing only solid waste generates 440

cubic feet per minute of methane. By recirculating landfill leachate, and incorporating yard waste, we expect to increase our methane production to 1,200 cubic feet per minute (173% increase). This increased production of methane will allow us to increase energy production by 1.6 MW or \$970,000 in revenue per year.

A review of our landfill operating costs indicates that by reducing the size of our yard waste composting program we will see a savings of over \$50,000 per year. The reduced size of the compost operation will greatly reduce air emissions from our site, improving the quality of life for our neighbors.

Presently, the city utilizes dual stream refuse vehicles for the simultaneous collection of yard waste and residential solid waste. This reduces collection costs and large truck traffic through residential areas. While this system works to control costs, vehicles frequently fill one side while the other has additional capacity. This requires the truck to break off its collection route early, travel to the landfill for disposal of the waste streams and return to the route in an inefficient manner. Additionally, dual stream trucks cost from \$20,000 to \$40,000 more than the standard garbage truck. The combining of yard waste and solid waste into a single stream truck will result in a time and money savings for the City. In the first year we anticipate a net savings of \$100,000. By year 2016 savings and increased energy sales are estimated at \$1,200,000 annually.

From a business and environmental perspective, the City of Midland, strongly supports House Bills 4265 and 4266. We support the provision to allow the land filling of yard waste in facilities designed to generate methane gas, capture it and utilize the gas in an energy generation operations. These Bills will not reduce employment in the City, but have the potential to accelerate new hires at the landfill/energy production facility.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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